



Westwood Public Library
Director's Report
September 2016

Summer Reading

The response seems to have been very positive from patrons for summer reading programs that included children, teens and adults. "Patron Picks" and "Staff Picks" were very popular this summer, and staff created ever-changing book displays to highlight the extensive selection of popular books that included short annotations from patrons and staff. The Children's Summer Reading Program was also very busy, with 995 children registered this summer!

New Digital Magazines – Zinio Collection

We are continuing to add E-content that is available 24/7 to patrons with a Westwood Library Card. Patrons now have access to Hoopla, Overdrive and a new collection of digital magazines through Zinio. Digital Content Options now available include three collections:

- Hoopla – movies and tv shows, music, audiobooks, E-books, comics and graphic novels
- Overdrive – E-Books and audiobooks
- Zinio – Magazines

Library Staffing

Reference Librarian (part-time): Stephanie Rose Czaszar (pronounces Chazar)

On Wednesday evenings you may see a new face at the Information/Reference Desk on the second floor from 5 pm – 9 pm. Stephanie has a diverse background in librarianship, editing and social work, and has a true passion for public libraries! Please do feel free to stop by and say hello if you are here on Wednesday evening - or if you happen to run into Stephanie on a Saturdays or Sundays when she is working!

Head of Circulation Services: Karen Gallagher

The position of Head of Circulation Services was posted a few weeks ago, and 25 applications were received. Several candidates were invited for on-site interviews. At the conclusion of this process, I am thrilled to share with you the news that Karen Gallagher will be the new Head of Circulation Services effective October 1st. Karen has worked at the Westwood Public Library in the circulation department since 2006 and is a highly valued and well-regarded member of the staff. Enhancing the quality of patron services is something that she is passionate about, and I do believe that she will do an excellent job as Head of Circulation Services.

Our current Head of Circulation Services Nancy Hogan will be retiring on Friday, September 30th. The Westwood Press recently interviewed Nancy – and the resulting article is attached below.

On Thursday, September 15th, Joan Courtney Murray will introduce staff to the consultant who has been retained by the town to head up the Library Reclassification efforts. The consultant is Mary Aicardi – and I have attached a brief bio below.

mary.aicardi@umb.edu

Mary Aicardi brings more than twenty years of experience in public sector human resources administration and labor relations to the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public

Management. She served for more than eight years as the personnel director for the town of Watertown, where she negotiated numerous collective bargaining agreements on behalf of the Town. Additionally, Aicardi has worked as the assistant personnel director for the Town of Barnstable and as a volunteer recruiter for a nonprofit agency. She is a management member of the Commonwealth's Joint Labor Management Committee, serves on the Board of the Massachusetts Municipal Personnel Association as a past chair, and is certified by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination as a trainer of discrimination and sexual harassment prevention. Aicardi has conducted numerous training programs on a wide range of human resources topics, including performance appraisal, progressive discipline, and sexual harassment prevention, and has consulted with many cities and towns as a hearing officer in discipline cases and as an advisor in organizational restructuring. She has also reviewed and modernized classification and compensation plans for several municipalities. Aicardi has a master of public administration and a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Strategic Plan

Trustees will meet on Monday, September 12th to make any final edits or adjustments to proposed Strategic Plan.

Other Upcoming Events/Activities

- **Volunteer Reception will be held on Thursday, September 29th from 10 – 11:30**
Trustees are most welcome to join us.
- **Westwood Day, Saturday – September 24th**
- **Friends Booksale is tentatively scheduled to be held from Thursday, November 3rd thru Saturday, November 5th**

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BOOKS

Engaging the readers

Head of circulation services announces retirement

By Max Bowen
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When asked what she'd miss about being Head of Circulation at Westwood Library, Nancy Hogan said it'd be working with her dedicated staff, chatting with patrons, and being among the first to see what new works were available. Hogan's role—which she has held for the last 16 years—was multifaceted, and included putting together the quarterly Page-turners—a book review program for adult readers



Head of Circulation Services Nancy Hogan (second from left) will retire this fall after 16 years at the Westwood Library. She is pictured here with fellow circulation department staff (from left) Karen Gallagher, Carol Devlin, and Andrea Varkas.

READERS

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She especially enjoyed recommending new authors who had just published their first title. She will be retiring on Sept. 30.

"It gives me such pleasure to recommend a book to a person," said Hogan on Wednesday. "That's a wonderful thing."

An avid reader herself, Hogan cited Tom Hardy, Julian Barnes, and Ron Risley among her favorites. She prefers reading "literary fiction," meaning a book of fiction that isn't a mystery or science fiction title. She'll read a book all the way through before deciding whether or not to recommend it, and added that it's not uncommon for one to start slow, then get better as the pages turn.

"I usually get hooked by page 30," said Hogan. "If I'm looking around and reading what used to be TV Guide at the time, it's [the book] not for me."

Another part of Hogan's job is working with her staff to collect the books checked out by residents in neighboring towns. As a member of the Minute-man Library Network,

Westwood's books often get shipped to those whose own libraries don't have the title they're looking for, Hogan estimates that 300 books, CDs, movies,

or audiobooks are sent each Monday, and many more go out through the week. Consequently, up to 10 crates arrived recently with titles from other libraries checked out by Westwood residents.

"Our staff is really busy," said Hogan.

Her time at the Westwood Library may be coming to a close, but Hogan plans to be a familiar face among the shelves, joking that she'd be "haunting" other libraries. She praised the work that went into the new building, as well as Tricia Perry, the current director and Tom Viti, the former director.

"Tricia is so full of energy and so approachable," said Hogan. "She has a passion to put books and programs and all kinds of materials into the hands of people that want them."

Hogan's career began in Mills, where she lives. She took on a part-time job in the library's circulation department, but when a full-time job didn't become available, she began seeking one in other towns.

The next stop—Westwood, with her first day the Tuesday after Labor Day, 16 years ago.

"I never thought I would do this for that long, but I never had a different plan in mind," said Hogan. "But has this gone fast?"